C. **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method of displaying layered data, said method comprising:

identifying a plurality of shading colors, each of the shading colors corresponding to a different data layer;

identifying a plurality of data items to be displayed in a display window;

for each data item:

determining one of the data layers corresponding to the data item;

selecting a shading color from the plurality of shading colors, wherein the shading color corresponds to the determined data layer;

formatting the data item using the selected shading color; and

displaying the formatted data item <u>and an alphanumeric level identifier</u> in the display window, wherein each formatted data item is positioned with a left margin substantially similar to a left margin corresponding to the other data items<u>, and wherein the alphanumeric level identifier identifies the data layer corresponding to the formatted data item</u>.

2. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 wherein the shading color includes grayscale shading.

3. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

analyzing an attribute corresponding to each data item;

determining a visual highlight corresponding to the
  attribute;

including the visual highlight with the formatted data
  item.

4. (Original) The method as described in claim 3 wherein the
visual highlight is selected from the group consisting of
blinking, text coloring, bolding, italicizing, underlining,
striking through, shadowing, outlining, capitalizing, and
font changing.

5. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further
comprising:

receiving a data item selection from a user;

displaying one or more formatted data items below the
  selected data item in response to the user selecting
  an unexpanded data item; and

removing one or more formatted data items from the display
  area beneath the selected data item in response to the
  user selecting an expanded data item.

6. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further
comprising:

displaying a graphic icon with each formatted data item,
  the graphic icon indicating whether the formatted data
  item is expanded.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Original) The method as described in claim 1 further
comprising:

displaying a level indicator bar with each formatted data
  item, wherein one margin of the level indicator bar

indicates a data level corresponding to the formatted data item.

9. (Currently Amended) An information handling system comprising:

one or more processors;

a memory accessible by the processors;

a display screen accessible by the processors; and

a layered data display tool to display layered data on the display screen, the layered data display tool including:

means for identifying a plurality of shading colors, each of the shading colors corresponding to a different data layer;

means for identifying a plurality of data items to be displayed on the display screen;

for each data item:

means for determining one of the data layers corresponding to the data item;

means for selecting a shading color from the plurality of shading colors, wherein the shading color corresponds to the determined data layer;

means for formatting the data item using the selected shading color; and

means for displaying the formatted data item <u>and an alphanumeric level identifier</u> in the display window, wherein each formatted data item is positioned with a left margin substantially similar to a left margin corresponding to the other data items, <u>and wherein the alphanumeric</u>

<u>level identifier identifies the data layer</u>

<u>corresponding to the formatted data item.</u>

10.   (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 9 wherein the shading color includes grayscale shading.

11.   (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 9 further comprising:
means for receiving a data item selection from a user;
means for displaying one or more formatted data items below the selected data item in response to the user selecting an unexpanded data item; and
means for removing one or more formatted data items from the display area beneath the selected data item in response to the user selecting an expanded data item.

12.   (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 9 further comprising:
means for displaying a graphic icon with each formatted data item, the graphic icon indicating whether the formatted data item is expanded.

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Original) The information handling system as described in claim 9 further comprising:
means for displaying a level indicator bar with each formatted data item, wherein one margin of the level indicator bar indicates a data level corresponding to the formatted data item.

15.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product for displaying layered data, said computer program product comprising:

means for identifying a plurality of shading colors, each of the shading colors corresponding to a different data layer;

means for identifying a plurality of data items to be displayed in a display window;

for each data item:

means for determining one of the data layers corresponding to the data item;

means for selecting a shading color from the plurality of shading colors, wherein the shading color corresponds to the determined data layer;

means for formatting the data item using the selected shading color; and

means for displaying the formatted data item and an alphanumeric level identifier in the display window, wherein each formatted data item is positioned with a left margin substantially similar to a left margin corresponding to the other data items, and wherein the alphanumeric level identifier identifies the data layer corresponding to the formatted data item.

16.   (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 15 wherein the shading color includes grayscale shading.

17.   (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 15 further comprising:

means for receiving a data item selection from a user;

means for displaying one or more formatted data items below the selected data item in response to the user selecting an unexpanded data item; and

means for removing one or more formatted data items from the display area beneath the selected data item in response to the user selecting an expanded data item.

18.   (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 15 further comprising:

means for displaying a graphic icon with each formatted data item, the graphic icon indicating whether the formatted data item is expanded.

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Original) The computer program product as described in claim 15 further comprising:

means for displaying a level indicator bar with each formatted data item, wherein one margin of the level indicator bar indicates a data level corresponding to the formatted data item.